

Public Comment Jim Casha
December 9th, 2014
Michigan Competitiveness Committee
Chair Rep Mike Shirkey

House Bill 5977 is 180 degrees **opposite** the bill you should be voting on.

If it is the intent of Rep Earl Poleski, *and* this legislature, to help Detroit, if that is *really* your intent, then you will vote 'no' on HB 5977 – "the local government employer mandate act" banning a Community Benefits Ordinance and Community Benefits Agreements (CBO/CBA).

Yesterday, Detroit City Council, at a Special Meeting called by Council President Brenda Jones, a resolution was passed in opposition to HB 5977. This was the 'right thing to do'... but the reasoning was flawed... 180 degrees flawed.... Same as this bill

At the meeting, it was stated that HB5977 is a 'disgrace' and that the legislator who sponsored it "has nothing to do with this city [Detroit]." Nothing could be further from the truth. Rep Poleski, and all of you, has everything to do with Detroit and its successful recovery.

I am here to ask you to vote 'no' on this bill and instead to rewrite it, or amend it, to **require** a Community Benefits Agreement when public land and/or public monies are given to private interests as tax abatements and/or development incentives regardless if it is local, state, or federal land and/or money.

It is unfortunate that such a bill would need to be passed. In the past, most businesses did this ...on their own. They also paid taxes and living wages and, as a result, we *all* prospered. If you don't believe me, walk down the street to REO Town and read the historical placard about what R.E. Olds did for the community. Some of these businesses took public money when they failed miserably.

Vote 'no' and do the right thing to help Detroit. As STATE legislators ... it is your duty.

Pressing on, with unwavering faith,

Jim Casha

Norwich, Ontario, Canada
540-717-9240
Jim.casha@gmail.com